

## Message Text

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DEPT FOR USIAC

DEPT FOR MR. CHARLES D. JONES, COMMERCIAL LIAISON - ROOM 2417A

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY SEMINAR, PALERMO, DEC. 16, 1975 UNDER  
THE AEGIS OF CONSULATE GENERAL, PALERMO.

REF: PALERMO 0798 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: CLOSE TO 200 PERSONS FROM MANY PARTS OF ITALY ATTENDED THE SOLAR ENERGY SEMINAR AND FOLLOWED WITH KEEN ATTENTION AND ENTHUSIASM AS THE ITALIAN AND AMERICAN SPEAKERS DISCUSSED PRACTICAL USES OF SOLAR ENERGY DURING A FULL, ONE DAY SEMINAR HELD AT THE PALERMO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AUDITORIUM ON DECEMBER 16. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEMINAR A RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED WITH THE UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF THE SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS, CALLING ON THE SICILIAN AND NATIONAL

GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE STEPS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY. MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS SEMINAR CAME FROM THE CONSULATE IN, FIRST, SELLING THE IDEA TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS# SECOND, IN LAYING THE GROUND WORK FOR THE PROJECT# AND FINALLY AND MOST IMPORTANT, OBTAINING 100% SICILIAN FINANCING. THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS HOPEFUL THAT ITS INITIATIVE IN DEVELOPING SUCH A SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR, WILL PROVE TO BE A CATALYST IN  
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRY AND THAT THE CONTACTS

ALREADY MADE WILL WIDEN AND LEAD TO COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY IN THIS FIELD. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE AUDIENCE WAS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVE OF BUILDINGS, INDUSTRIAL

ECONOMIC, ACADEMIC, AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS. AMONG THE SPEAKERS WERE DR. GEORGE SZEGO REPRESENTING SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

(SEIA) OF WASHINGTON, D.C., PROFESSOR WILLIAM JONES OF THE MIT ENERGY LABORATORY# AND EMBASSY ROME SCIENCE ATTACHE JOHN MANNIELLO. PROF. JONES DISCUSSED A RESEARCH PROJECT CONCERNING THE PROPOSED USE OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR HEATING AND COOLING THE CITICORP BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY, WHILE DR. SZEGO USED A SERIES OF SLIDES TO DEMONSTRATE

TO THE AUDIENCE MANY PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED OR UNDERWAY IN THE U.S. AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. HE EMPHASIZED THE URGENT NEED FOR THE WESTERN WORLD TO MAKE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY FOR HEATING AND COOLING PURPOSES, CALLING IT "A CRIME" TO BE USING A GREAT PART OF THE WORLD'S DWINDLING SUPPLY OF FOSSIL FUEL FOR ENDS WHICH DO NOT CREATE MOVEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE KNOW-HOW WAS ALREADY AVAILABLE AND THE PROBLEM OF ADDITIONAL INITIAL COSTS TO HOMEBUILDERS COULD BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH THE MASS-PRODUCTION OF THE EQUIPMENT. HE OPINED THAT SOLAR ENERGY HEATING AND COOLING WILL BECOME A LARGE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES IF HOPED-FOR INCENTIVES ARE PASSED INTO LAW BY THE U.U. CONGRESS. PROFESSOR MANNIELLO DESCRIBED VARIOUS SOLAR ENERGY ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, PLACING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE EFFORTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

3. ALL OF THE SPEAKERS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED AND QUESTIONS WERE FIELDED BOTH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION AND DURING THE TIME ALLOWED FOR DISCUSSION. IN ADDITION, AN INFORMAL MEETING WAS HELD THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE OFFICES OF SICINDUSTRIA THE SICILIAN INDUSTRIALIST FEDERATION, IN WHICH BOTH DR. SZEGO AND PROF. JONES WERE KEPT BUSY DISCUSSING SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND BUSINESS PROPOSALS. VISITORS TOOK A GREAT INTEREST IN THE VARIOUS REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE WHICH THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAD COLLECTED FROM VARIOUS U.S. SOURCES.

4. THE CONSENSUS OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED WAS THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE IN ITALY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS FAVORABLE CLIMATE AND AND DEPENDENCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR FUEL, TO STIMULATE A SOLAR ENERGY UNCLASSIFIED

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INDUSTRY FOR HEATING AND COOLING AND FOR THE DESALINIZATION OF WATER AS WELL AS AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER PURPOSES.

5. THE SEMINAR WAS NO DOUBT VERY USEFUL IN CRESTING AN AWARENESS OF AMERICAN EXPETISE IN THE UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY, AS WELL AS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SICILIAN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO MEET WITH TWO U.S. LEADING SPECIALISTS IN THIS FIELD. CHIAVARINI

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